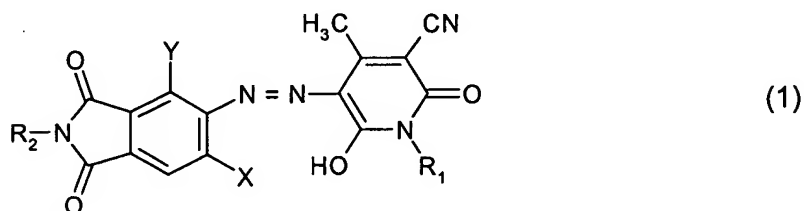


IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended): A dye of formula



wherein R_1 is C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or $-C_nH_{2n}-(OCH_2CH_2)_m-OR_3$, n being a number from 2 to 8, m being a number from 0 to 4 and R_3 being C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl or C_6 - C_{24} aralkyl,

R_2 is ~~methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, 2-methoxyethyl or 2-ethoxyethyl,~~

X is halogen and

Y is hydrogen, chlorine or bromine.

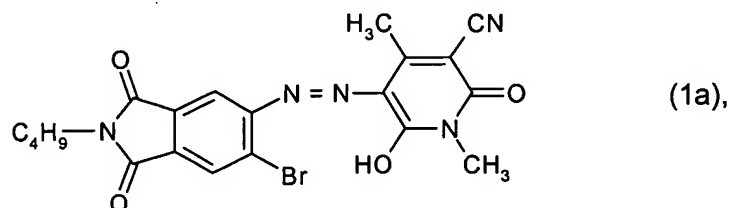
2. (original): A dye of formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl, ethyl or n-butyl.

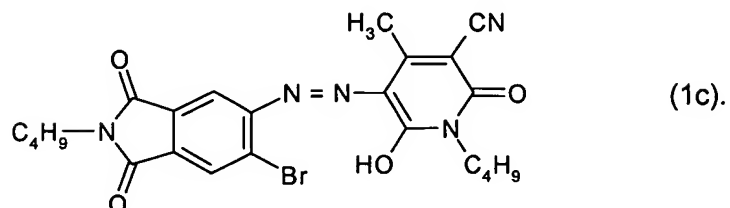
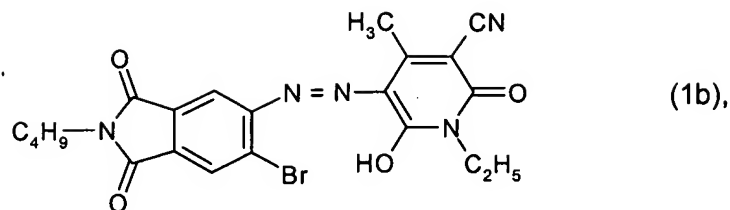
3. (cancelled).

4. (previously presented): A dye of formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein X is bromine.

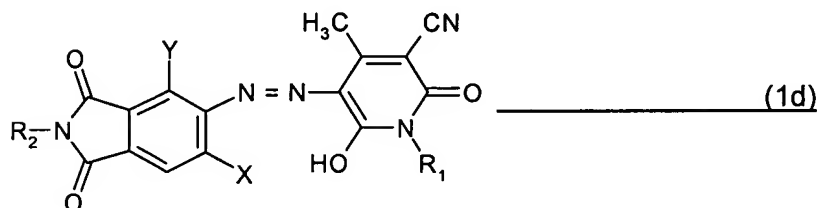
5. (previously presented): A dye of formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein Y is hydrogen.

6. (original): A dye of formula (1a), (1b) or (1c)



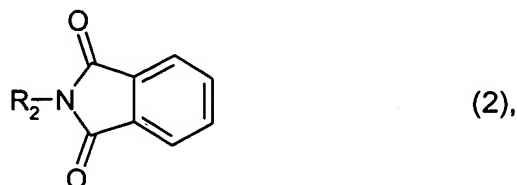


7. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a dye of formula (1d) ~~according to claim 1,~~



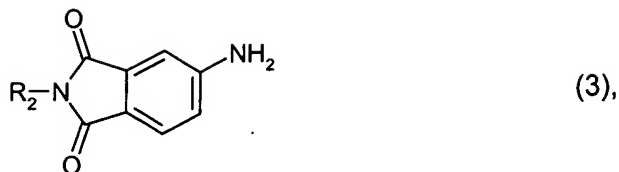
wherein R₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkyl or -C_nH_{2n}-(OCH₂CH₂)_m-OR₃, n being a number from 2 to 8, m being a number from 0 to 4 and R₃ being C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₆-C₂₄aryl or C₆-C₂₄aralkyl,
R₂ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, 2-methoxyethyl or 2-ethoxyethyl,
X is halogen and
Y is hydrogen, chlorine or bromine

which comprises nitration of a phthalimide of formula

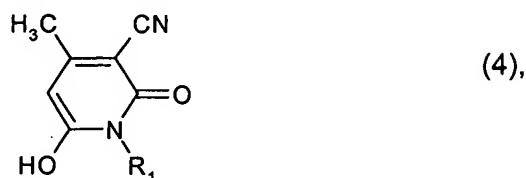


~~wherein R₂ is as defined in claim 1,~~

in the acid range, followed by alkylation of the resulting nitro compound and, by means of a reductive treatment, conversion into an intermediate of formula



halogenation of the intermediate of formula (3) in an acid medium and then diazotisation and coupling to a pyridone compound of formula (4)



wherein ~~R₁ is as defined in claim 1.~~

8. (original): A dye mixture comprising at least two structurally different dyes of formula (1) according to claim 1.

9. (previously presented): A process for dyeing or printing semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre materials, in which process a dye of formula (1) according to claim 1 is applied to the said materials or incorporated into them.

10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented): A semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre material dyed or printed by the process according to claim 9.

12. (previously presented): A method of dyeing or printing semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre materials, which comprises contacting said fiber materials with at least one dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.